

### **Abstract of the Disclosure**

1        A diagnostic instrument or data acquisition apparatus having a database for storing  
2        communications interface specifications and other properties of diagnostic attributes (e.g., sensor  
3        measurements or operating conditions) outputted by various classes (models or versions) of  
4        equipment to be tested. The database records include a first field identifying a class of equipment, a  
5        second field identifying (e.g., by name or description) a diagnostic attribute whose value is outputted  
6        by that class of equipment, and a third field. The third field can specify an ID (e.g., physical signal  
7        line, physical address, or logical address) that enables a diagnostic apparatus to retrieve the value of  
8        the attribute identified by the second field from the class of UUT equipment identified by the first  
9        field of the record. Alternatively, the third field can identify the communications interface at which  
10      the diagnostic attribute is transmitted.